



FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
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Announcement Number: FDA-9-4030

Opening Date: August 5, 1999

Closing Date: September 7, 1999

Position Title: Biologist

Series & Grade: GS-401-9/11/12

Promotion Potential: GS-12

Salary Range: GS-9 - \$33,650 - \$43,747 per annum
GS-11 - \$40,714 - \$52,927 per annum
GS-12 - \$48,796 - \$63,436 per annum

Area of Consideration: Government - Wide

"Preference eligibles or veterans who have separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous service may apply."

Type of Appointment: Career/Career Conditional
THIS POSITION IS OPEN TO STATUS CANDIDATES ONLY.

Relocation expenses: Will not be paid

Organization, Duty Location: DHHS, FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine, Office of Research, Division of Animal and Food Microbiology, Laurel, Maryland

Condition of Employment: Certain positions within the FDA are subject to strict restrictions on financial holdings (FDA regulated financial holdings). To determine whether this position is affected, applicants are advised to seek additional information during the interview process from the Ethics and Personnel Security Branch at (301) 827-5511 prior to accepting such a position.

Commissioned Corps candidates may apply.

JOB SUMMARY:

This position involves research support work in aquaculture investigation microbial ecology and chemical, primary drug, metabolism and distribution in aquaculture species. The work entails studies with aquatic animal species, primarily fin fish and selected invertebrates such as shrimp, which serve as sources of human food. Plans and conducts studies designed to investigate the presence of microbial pathogens and pattern of antibiotic sensitivity in those bacteria in edible tissues and products from food fish. Plans and participates in the execution of studies designed to investigate metabolism, distribution and residues of drugs and other chemicals in edible tissues and products from fish.

Provides specialized support to research leaders in the conduct and planning of their studies. Reviews scientific literature and methodology for information pertinent to the problem under investigation. Prepares portions of the study protocol as directed by the research leader. Following protocol development, responsible for managing conduct of the study, including animal and analytical aspects. Selects specific test procedures to be used and applies them to the samples collected and adapts published methods as needs arise. Evaluates and interprets study results to determine if the data obtained are complete and valid, helps prepare reports of experimental data for publication, participates in seminars to help prepare the results of research for presentation. Maintains and troubleshoots the flow-through potable water and waste water processing plant and maintains a pager which reports plant operations. The computer operated plant monitoring terminal is operated by the incumbent, who reports deficiencies and coordinates repairs with Facilities Management Team. Responsible for maintenance of aquatic organisms in the FDA Aquaculture Facility, including designing and constructing life support systems, procurement and transport of animals, water quality assessments, and routing husbandry. Sets up experimental systems and doses experimental animals. Responsible for preparation of specialized feed, feeding, handling animals, taking blood and/or tissue samples and conducting necropsy examinations. Maintenance and operation of laboratory equipment including spectrophotometers, analytical balances, centrifuges, pH meters, etc. Keeps abreast of pertinent literature to maintain awareness of recent technology advances.

QUALIFICATIONS:

BIOLOGIST, GS-401 Applicants must have either (A) Successful completion of a full four-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's degree (or higher) with major study in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position; or (B) A combination of education and experience with courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Candidates must have 52 weeks of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level.

Specialized experience is experience which is typically in or related to the work of the position such as: experience in fishery sciences.

Candidates must meet all qualification requirements, including time-in-grade, within 30 days after the closing date.

EVALUATION METHOD:

Candidates found basically qualified will be further evaluated by determining the extent to which their work or related experience, education, training, awards, etc., indicate their possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA's) described below.

1. Knowledge of fishery science practices and procedures.
2. Ability to evaluate inspection findings and analyze evidence.
3. Ability to communicate in writing.
4. Ability to communicate orally and interact with officials.
5. Skill in operating laboratory equipment.

HOW TO APPLY:

A. Candidates may submit an Application for Federal Employment (SF-171), an Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF 612), resume, curriculum vitae, or any other written format. Your application **must** include the following information:

1. Title, series, grade, and vacancy announcement number of the vacancy for which you want to be considered.
2. Full legal name, social security number and mailing address.
3. Daytime and evening telephone numbers.
4. For experiences most relevant to this position, include name of employer, dates of employment, job title, start and end dates, and a description of your duties and responsibilities for each job listed.
5. Average hours worked for each position if other than 40 hours per week.
6. Name, location and date of educational institutions attended.
7. Type of degree, if any, and date received.
8. Major field of study.
9. List of relevant training including, courses titles, dates, number of hours and name of institution.
10. Description of honors, awards, and special qualifications, such as language skills or computer skills, along with dates acquired.
11. Clearly identify U.S. Citizenship (Proof required prior to employment)

B. Additional information/completed forms to be submitted, if checked; failure to submit requested information/documents may result in nonconsideration or a lower rating in the evaluation process.

- ☒ Written response to the knowledge, skills and abilities
- ☒ If claiming veterans' preference, see additional information on this form
- ☒ College transcripts or list of courses, including title, credit hours and grade for each course if qualifying on education and/or changing occupational series; see additional information on this form for foreign education
- ☒ Current federal employees - most recent performance appraisal/evaluation
- ☒ Current **and** former federal employees - a copy of most recent complete SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, to verify status

C. Surplus or Displaced Employees in the Department of Health And Human Services (DHHS) Requesting Special Selection Priority Consideration Under The Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP)

If you are currently a DHHS employee you may be entitled to special priority selection under the DHHS Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP). To receive priority consideration, you must:

1. Be a current DHHS employee serving under an appointment in the competitive or excepted service in tenure group I or II, in receipt of (1) a Reduction in Force (RIF) specific separation notice, (2) a notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function outside of the commuting area, (3) a Certificate of Expected Separation (CES), or (4) other official notice that indicates the employee is surplus or eligible for discontinued service retirement (DSR) or as being in a surplus organization or occupation, and the date of the separation has not passed and you are still on the rolls of DHHS. You must submit a copy of the separation notice, CES, or other official notice along with your application in order to receive special priority consideration;
2. Be applying for a position that is at or below the grade level of the position from which you are being separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you are being separated;
3. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This must be submitted with your application package;
4. Be currently employed by DHHS in the same commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration;
5. Submit your application (including all required documentation) by the vacancy announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria; **and**
6. Be rated well qualified for the position.

"Well Qualified" means: a surplus/displaced employee must meet the minimum qualifications and eligibility requirements for the position, including any documented selective factor(s), and be rated and ranked under the same procedures as merit promotion applicants to determine the extent to which he/she possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) to succeed in the position being filled. A cut-off score will be used to determine the well qualified applicant(s).

Displaced Employees Requesting Special Selection Priority Consideration Under The Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP)

If you are a displaced Federal employee you may be entitled to receive priority selection under the ICTAP.

To be eligible for the special selection priority, you must meet all of the following:

- (1) Be a displaced Federal employee;
- (2) Submit a copy of your current (or your last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent;
- (3) Apply for a vacancy at or below the grade level from which you were or are being separated, that does not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you have been or are being separated from;

- (4) Occupy, or was displaced from a position in the same local commuting area of the vacancy;
- (5) Submit an application (including all required documentation) for a specific vacancy within the time frames established on the announcement and meet all the application and eligibility criteria;
- (6) Submit proof of eligibility; and
- (7) Be rated well qualified for the position.

“Well Qualified” means: a displaced employee must meet the minimum qualification and eligibility requirements for the position (including any selective factors), and be rated and ranked to determine the extent to which he/she possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) to succeed in the position being filled. Under merit promotion procedures, a cut-off score will be used to determine the well qualified applicant(s). Under delegated examining procedures, the displaced employee must receive a score of 90 or better to receive selection priority.

Displaced employees may submit any (one) of the following as proof of eligibility for the special selection priority:

- (1) RIF separation notice, or notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function to another commuting area;
- (2) Documentation, e.g., SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, showing that you were separated as a result of RIF, or for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function to another commuting area;
- (3) Official certification from an agency stating that it cannot place an individual whose injury compensation has been or is being terminated;
- (4) Official notification from OPM that your disability annuity has been or is being terminated; or
- (5) Official notification from the Military Department or National Guard Bureau that the employee has retired under 5 U.S.C. 8337(h) or 8456.

Applicant Background Survey: Please return the Background Survey with your application. This information you provide is used for statistical purposes. The return of this form is voluntary. Failure to return this form will have no impact on your consideration for this position.

Qualifying education gained at colleges and universities in foreign countries must be evaluated in terms of its equivalency to that acquired in American colleges and universities. Applicants educated in whole or in part in foreign countries must submit sufficient evidence, including transcripts, to an accredited private organization for an equivalency evaluation. A letter containing the results **MUST** accompany the application package.

Send or bring applications to:

Food and Drug Administration
Office of Human Resources and Management Services
Attn.: Vernelle Dewberry
Room 211, Metro Park North I, HFA-423
7520 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855

Faxed copies of this announcement may be obtained by calling (301) 827-4287.

Applications received become the property of the Office of Human Resources and Management Services (OHRMS).

Applications submitted in postage paid Government envelopes will not be accepted.

Additional forms and information may be obtained from the address above or by calling Vernelle Dewberry at (301) 594-0195. Candidates must submit a complete application package that is received or postmarked by the closing date of this announcement.

All applicants will receive equal consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, age (with authorized exceptions) or any other non-merit factor.